

REMARKS

This Amendment is responsive to the Office Action of July 2, 2003. Claim 9 has been amended and claims 10 -12 added. Claims 1 – 12 are pending in this case. Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

The Examiner rejected claims 1 – 9 under 35 USC 103(a) over Liu et al. and Gershenfeld at al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The present invention as set out in claims 1 – 7 is directed to a wireless mouse and reader combination employing one or more passive transponder circuits coupled to an antenna and responsive to motion of a mouse type XY encoder. For example, as shown in Fig. 19A and 19B of the application, elements on an encoder wheel may tune and detune a transponder circuit as the wheel turns. The reader detects the mouse motion from the effect of the transponder circuit(s) on the interrogating field. This novel approach has numerous advantageous features as described in the specification.

The Liu et al. reference is directed to a wireless mouse which derives power from a proximate antenna in a mouse pad or "baseboard" 10. Other than deriving power from the baseboard rather than a battery the operation of the mouse circuitry is apparently simply that of a conventional wireless mouse. There is certainly no disclosure of a passive transponder circuit as acknowledged by the Examiner.

The Gershenfeld et al. reference is directed to a sensor which employs a material which is altered in its electrical or magnetic properties in response to an external factor such as an applied force. By incorporating this sensor structure in an LC circuit, the changing material properties alter the circuit response allowing the sensor to be read out remotely.

The Examiner stated that it would be obvious to combine Gershenfeld et al. and Liu et al. to arrive at the present invention. However, Applicant is unable to understand the Examiner's reasoning. Gershenfeld et al. is directed to using the unique properties of a material responsive, e.g., to force or temperature, as a sensor. Applicant cannot see how such a sensor or such a material could be combined with Liu et al. Also, Gershenfeld's read out circuitry is specifically designed to read out the changing material properties to sense the force or temperature and is not a circuit which could be simply substituted in Liu et al. Furthermore, although, as noted by the Examiner, Gershenfeld et al. briefly refers to an application as a wireless computer input device, no details are provided. The only discussion on data transfer is for an application as a modem (col. 8, l. 52). Notably, specific detail is provided on sensor applications which more reasonably correspond to the teachings of Gershenfeld et al. Clearly if Gershenfeld et al. could have provided any clear teaching of a wireless computer input application other than a modem, more detail would have been provided.

In summary, it is unclear to Applicant how Gershenfeld et al. could possibly be combined with Liu et al. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that there is no support for the proposed combination. Alternatively, it is respectfully requested that the

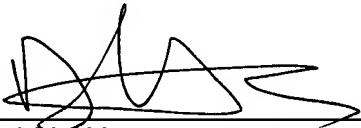
Examiner explain more clearly the nature of the proposed combination if the rejection is to be maintained.

Independent claims 8 and 9 are directed to a computer system employing a wireless mouse and a method of wireless transmission of data between a wireless mouse and a reader respectively. Since the Examiner's rejection of these claims also relied on the combination of Liu et al. and Gershenfeld et al., it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of these claims is also fully traversed. (A minor amendment to claim 9 has been made simply for clearer consistency with the added claims dependent thereon and not for prior art reasons.)

Based on the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. Applicant encourages the Examiner to telephone him at the below number if it appears that any impediment remains to allowance of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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